

SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: Request approval to proceed with the application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Family Unification Program (FUP)

REQUESTED ACTION: Staff recommends approval

☐ Work Session (Report Only) **DATE OF MEETING:** 10/26/10
☒ Regular Meeting ☐ Special Meeting

CONTRACT: ☒ N/A

Vendor/Entity: N/A

Effective Date: _____

Termination Date: _____

Managing Division / Dept: _____

Housing Department

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

☐ Annual

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

☐ Capital

EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT: N/A

☒ N/A

HISTORY/FACTS/ISSUES:

FUP vouchers will be used to promote family unification of families for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in the separation of children from their families and for youths 18 – 21 years old who left foster care at age 16 or older and lack adequate housing. Sumter County is eligible for up to 25 vouchers with no confirmed dollar amounts at this time. The Housing Department would coordinate with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Kids Central, Inc. to combine counseling skills and produce a plan to administer the program, defining the eligibility process and create a case plan for each family or foster child's individual needs and determination of what types of services are needed for successful transition to self sufficiency. The Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA) must certify the family or youth as eligible to receive the assistance. In Sumter County, the PCWA is the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the subcontractor under DCF is Kid's Central, Inc.

Who is eligible for the program –

- Youth 18 – 21 years old who left foster care at age 16 or older
- Family for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in the family being separated or the threat of separation
- Family or youth displaced by domestic violence
- Family or youth living in a unit that is dilapidated (present condition endangers the health, safety, or well-being of the family or youth).

Length of time on the program –

- This program will only assist eligible families or youths for a maximum of 12 months. After the expiration of the voucher, families and youths should be established in a safe and decent dwelling unit and earning an income in order to be removed from all services, except for those required by U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

This program is targeted to assist families in creating a home environment that is conducive to furthering education, finding jobs and providing services that will make certain each family unit has the skills necessary to thrive on their own.

In FY 09/10, there were 15 children aging out of the foster care system and 44 children removed from their homes mainly due to inadequate housing. Combining decent safe housing with counseling in job interview skills, budgeting money, the good and bad of credit, housekeeping and access to health care will give the family or individual self respect and the ability to become a productive member of the community.

The voucher program is 100% funded through HUD and no local funds will be expended for the vouchers or program.
